THE DOMINO PRINCIPLE
PART II
"THE POLITICS OF FEAR"

FABIAN NICIEZA — WRITER | RON LIM — PENCILER | PAT DAVIDSON — INKER | GOTHAM — COLORIST | VC'S CORY PETIT — LETTERS

CABLE CREATED BY ROB LIEFELD AND LOUISE SIMONSON

NICOLE BOOSE — EDITOR | BARBER & MACCHIO — CONSULTING EDITORS | JOE QUESADA — EDITOR IN CHIEF | DAN BUCKLEY — PUBLISHER

DEADPOOL CREATED BY ROB LIEFELD AND FABIAN NICIEZA

WELCOME TO NIGHTCAP! I'M, WADE WILSON--THE LOVABLE MERC WITH A MOUTH KNOWN FAR AND WIDE AS DEADPOOL.
THINGS SURE HAVE BEEN HOPPING LATELY, HUH? LAST ISSUE, I WAS HIRED BY THE RUMEKISTAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT--
--TO HELP THEM OVERTHROW THEIR DICTATOR, THE BORDER-HATING TERRORIST, FLAG-SMASHER.
Nightcap with Wade Wilson
THINGS GOT COMPLICATED WHEN THE MERCENARY MUTANT MISTRESS OF MISCHIEF, DOMINO, TRIED TO STOP ME, BUT--

--WE WERE GOOD TO GO, HAD THE SHOT ALL LINED UP, WHEN POW! FLAGGY GOES DOWN!
GUESS WHO PULLED THE TRIGGER? DOMINO. AH-HUH, HOW COMES BEATS ME.
BUT MAYBE OUR GUEST KNOWS WHY THERE MUST BE A REASON WE BOOKED HIM.
A BIG PALM-SLAP FOR A DUDE WHO'S BEEN SUPER-SPYING FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS--AUSTIN POWERS WITH COJONES OF STEEL. GIVE IT UP FOR CITIZEN V!

FIRST LET ME SAY, YOU'RE HANDLING THIS WHOLE FOURTH-WALL RECAP PAGE THING MUCH BETTER THAN LAST ISSUE'S GUEST.
LIKE BAD TEETH?
IT'S A BRITISH THING.
A PLUM?
LIKE APLOMB.
IS IT TRUE YOU GRABBED A GUY'S HUEVOS DURING A FIGHT? IS THAT LIKE TWO PLUMS?
APLOMB. BALANCE. DECORUM. GRACE UNDER PRESSURE.

SECRETS OF THE TRADE. I'LL NEVER TELL.
WICKED AWESOME. I GOTTA TRY ME SOME OF THAT! SO, ANYWAY, DAWG, HOW COME YOU'RE MY GUEST TONIGHT?
BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN SECRETLY WORKING UNDERCOVER BENEATH YOUR NOSE THIS ENTIRE TIME.
NO! REALLY? GET OUT! BUT NOW I KNOW!
D'OH!
AND YET, TURN THE PAGE AND YOU'RE NOT. IT'S A FOURTH-WALL THING...

BARJNOV--CAPITAL OF RUMEKISTAN.
MISSION LOG: DAY TWO, RUNNING: FLAG-SMASHER IS DEAD. BECAUSE I SHOT HIM. RUMEKISTAN IS LIBERATED. BUT WHAT IF I JUST MADE THINGS WORSE?
NATHAN DAYSPRING ASKANI'SON. CABLE--SOLDIER FROM THE FUTURE-- AND THE PAST--NOW SELF-PROCLAIMED SAVIOR OF THE PRESENT--
--HAS JUST BEEN NAMED THE NEW PRESIDENT OF RUMEKISTAN.
IF THE PEOPLE KNEW HIM AS WELL AS I DO...WOULD THEY BE CHEERING?
OR WOULD THEY BE DOING WHAT--
EVERY.
CELL.
IN.
MY.
BODY.
--IS TELLING ME TO DO RIGHT NOW...
...WOULD THEY BE LINING UP A SHOT TO TAKE HIM OUT, TOO...?
ULTIMATUM--LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS AND YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED!
THE TIME FOR BLOODSHED IS OVER. WE WELCOME YOU TO STAY, HELP REBUILD THIS COUNTRY--
--YOU WANT A WORLD WITHOUT THE DIVIDE BROUGHT ON BY NATIONALITIES, LANGUAGES AND BORDERS?
WELL, THEN YOU SHOULD ALL BE VERY HAPPY I'VE TAKEN OVER...BECAUSE THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I WILL DELIVER!

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'SCUZE ME, PARDON ME, 'SCUZE ME--
HEY, NO COPPING A CHEAP FEEL THERE--
--OH, I'M SORRY, THAT WAS ME DOING THE COPPING...
AND HE...HE JUST ALWAYS GETS HIS WAY!
I DID NOT WANT FLAG-SMASHER KILLED. THAT WAS NOT DONE BY THE RUMEKI RESISTANCE, BUT BY OUTSIDE AGITATORS.
I ASSURE YOU, WE WILL CONTINUE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER.
I CAN TAKE HIM DOWN. I ALWAYS COULD. HIS POWERS--THEY'RE NOT EVEN GENETIC ANYMORE, THEY'RE MECHANICALLY-DERIVED--
--THEY CAN'T STOP MY MUTANT ABILITIES... THINGS ALWAYS HAVE A WAY OF FALLING INTO PLACE FOR ME...
I CAN TAKE HIM DOWN... RIGHT NOW...

THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR FLAG-SMASHER'S DEATH WAS ONLY ACTING ON YOUR BEHALF.
THINKING I PLANNED TO ASSASSINATE YOUR USURPER, SHE WAS ONLY TRYING TO SPARE ME THE GUILT OF COMPLETING THE TASK...
...SHE DID THIS, ASSUMED THIS HEAVY BURDEN, BECAUSE SHE IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN...
...A VERY GOOD FRIEND.
I CAN TAKE HIM DOWN RIGHT NOW.

I DIDN'T SHOOT HIM.
I MEAN, I COULDA--I WAS GONNA--JUST WING HIM LIKE WE TALKED ABOUT, BUT I DIDN'T.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO EXPLAIN IS THAT I DIDN'T KILL HIM, IS ALL....
I KNOW, WADE.
I KNOW, WADE.
I KNOW, WADE...I KNOW YOU DIDN'T...

SOMETIMES, I HAVE THIS SURREAL DREAM, WHERE I'M NOT FIGHTING.
A WORLD WHERE THERE IS NO WAR. WHERE PEOPLE DON'T WANT OTHER PEOPLE KILLED.
THEN I WAKE UP, READY FOR THE DAY'S PAYCHECK.
NOW, HALF AN HOUR AFTER CABLE'S APPEARANCE, I'M LIVING THE DREAM.
YEAH, THAT'S WHERE THE TRANSFER LINES ATROPHIED--
IF YOU RECONNECT THOSE CONDUITS, THE ENTIRE STELLGARD DISTRICT WILL HAVE POWER AGAIN?
YEAH.
WE DID NOT HAVE THE EQUIPMENT TO REPAIR THE JUNCTURE.
I HAVE TWO CARGO FREIGHTERS TWELVE HOURS FROM THE BAIKUROV HARBOR, CAPTAIN STRAKA.
MAKE SURE THERE ARE SUFFICIENT WORKERS AVAILABLE TO UNLOAD THEM.
ISN'T ANYONE GONNA TAKE A SWING AT ANYONE ELSE HERE? ANYONE...?

CABLE--ARE YOU CERTAIN THIS ULTIMATUM CAPTAIN IS TO BE TRUSTED?
YOU MIGHT BE THE RESISTANCE LEADER, MR. PETROVIC, BUT I WANT THIS COUNTRY TO BE AT PEACE AS MUCH AS YOU DO.

YOU DON'T EVEN WANT THIS COUNTRY TO BE A COUNTRY!
I WILL NOT DISMANTLE RUMEKISTAN'S EXISTING ULTIMATUM SECURITY FORCES.
THAT VACUUM HAS PROVEN COSTLY FOR TOO MANY NEW GOVERNMENTS THROUGHOUT HISTORY.
THEY WANT THE SAME THING YOU DO, PETROVIC...PEACE, SECURITY, HOME AND HEARTH...

...ASSUMING THAT IS WHAT YOU WANT...?
UHM...OF COURSE, YES. VERY WELL. BUT WE WILL HAVE A RESISTANCE PRESENCE AS WELL.

IT GOES ON FOR HOURS. THEY TALK, ARGUE A BIT, BUT ALSO FIGURE THINGS OUT.
WILSON'S TECH-BROKER, WEASEL, PROVIDES THE PRIORITY LIST OF PROBLEMS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED.
NATE DECIDES HOW TO ADDRESS THEM. PETROVIC AND MICHAEL DECIDE WHO SHOULD ADDRESS THEM.

IT ALL SEEMS SO...EASY. WHY COULDN'T THEY DO THIS WITHOUT NATE AROUND?
PRETTY PRODUCTIVE MEETING, I THINK.
DOM, IF WE COULD TALK A BIT, I'D APPRECIATE IT.
WADE, I'D LIKE YOU TO SHADOW PETROVIC. I DON'T TRUST HIM.

OKAY. HOW COME?
BECAUSE OUR FORMER-HISTORY-PROFESSOR-TURNED-REBEL-LEADER, NENAD PETROVIC...
...WAS KILLED BY FLAG-SMASHER'S SILENT GUARD NINE WEEKS AGO IN A RUMEKI PRISON ...

(--NOW YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, NENAD?)
(NENAD IS JUST CONCERNED OUR FIGHT MIGHT NOT BE OVER!)
(FLAG-SMASHER IS GONE. WE ALL DECIDED CABLE WOULD PUT US ON A PROPER PATH!)
(BUT WHERE DOES THAT PATH LEAD?)
(TIME WILL TELL. AND WE WILL KEEP A CAREFUL WATCH IN THE TELLING...)
(I WILL SEE YOU LATER AT THE SCHEDULED MEDIA CONFERENCE.)
VRADEC, I'M REPORTING IN. MY MISTAKE HAS BEEN RECTIFIED.
THE QUESTION REMAINS, WILL THE SOLUTION PROVE WORSE THAN THE PROBLEM?
LOOKING FOR YOUR ACCENT, I TAKE IT?
YOUR ENGLISH GOT GOOD ENOUGH TO SOUND LIKE ENGLISH ENGLISH.
I DOWNLOADED A MERCHANT-IVORY FILM MARATHON TO MY iPOD THIS MORNING.
OUCH. YOU'RE A MASOCHIST-- YOU MUST BE BRITISH...
INDEED...I ASSUME CABLE IS THE ONE WHO "OUTTED" ME...?
HEY, DON'T ASK. DON'T TELL--UHH...WHAT'RE YOU REACHING FOR THERE, TIGER...?
ZZCHKK

YOUR FONDEST DREAM TURNED INTO YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE.
HOLY HOLOGRAPHIC DISGUISE, OLD CHUM!! IT'S--
--UHM, DUDE, I GOT NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE.
CITIZEN V
YOU BUFFOON.
A NAMESAKE THAT HAS PROUDLY CARRIED THE BANNER OF INTERNATIONAL SUBTERFUGE, WETWORK AND DIRTY TRICKS SINCE WORLD WAR II.
WHAT THE HECK IS YOUR SWORD MADE OUT OF? I GOTTA GET ME ONE OF THOSE!
TITANIUM CORE. ADAMANTIUM SHEATH.
WHAT LAY YOU ODDS YOUR ESCRIMA STICKS WON'T DO DIDDLY AGAINST IT?
UHM....A THOUSAND TO ONE I'M IN DEEP DOO?
SMART BET. LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS...

PROVIDENCE. CABLE'S SOUTH PACIFIC SANCTUARY.
GAREB--GET INTO THE BLACK BOX ARMOR--I NEED EVERYTHING YOU CAN FIND ON THIS CITIZEN V GUY.
EVEN IN DISGUISE, HE ORGANIZED THE RUMEKI RESISTANCE AND WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT HIS MOTIVES ARE.
YOU HEARD HIM THROUGH WILSON'S OPEN COMM.-LINK. HE SAID HIS "MISTAKE HAS BEEN RECTIFIED."
IRENE--THERE--THERE'S ONLY ARCHIVAL INFORMATION--HE WAS A BRITISH OPERATIVE IN WORLD WAR II--
--THE TERRORIST BARON HELMUT ZEMO ASSUMED THE IDENTITY WHEN HE BEGAN HIS THUNDERBOLTS TEAM OF FORMER VILLAINS--
--BUT HIS PRESENT-DAY ACTIVITY IS A WHITE VEIL.
WHICH MAKES HIM A COMPLETE ANOMALY.
WHICH WE CAN'T AFFORD WHILE NATE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF STEALING A COUNTRY.
SWITCH GEARS, GAREB. LET'S SEE HOW THIS IS AFFECTING THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
THE "POWERS THAT BE" WERE WORRIED ENOUGH WHEN CABLE HAD A SMALL ISLAND--
--AND THEY'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF CONSIDERING LEGISLATION TO REGISTER SUPERHUMANS. SO HOW WILL THEY REACT WHEN THEY FIND OUT--

YOU REMOVED A PRESUMED BURDEN OF GUILT FROM MY SHOULDERS BY TAKING OUT FLAG-SMASHER...
...AND NOW YOU DON'T TRUST THAT I CAN HANDLE THE BURDEN AT ALL?
SAY SOMETHING!
...
DOM...I'M SORRY... I--YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE ME... YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO BELIEVE *IN* ME...
...I JUST WISH YOU *DID*...
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME. I HAVE TO GET READY FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE...
...I HOPE WHEN IT'S OVER, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ANSWER MY QUESTION.
I ALREADY *KNOW* MY ANSWER.
I JUST KEEP LOOKING FOR A *REASON* TO *CHANGE* IT.

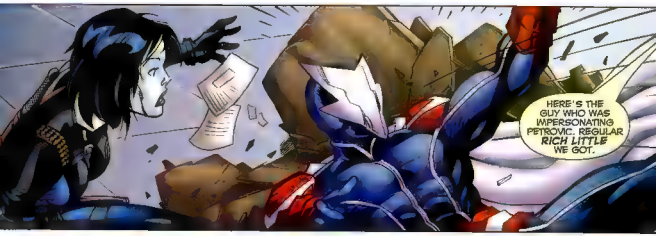
AND I HAVEN'T FOUND IT YET...
THIS FIGHT IS COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY.
BLASPHEMY! ALL FIGHTS ARE NECESSARY.
I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR FLAG-SMASHER'S RULE.
I PUT HIM IN POWER AS A FLAWED SOLUTION TO A STICKY SITUATION I'D ENCOUNTERED.
I KNEW YOU WERE A FRONT FOR CABLE. I WANTED HIM TO ASSUME CONTROL OF THIS COUNTRY.
MAN, YOU TALK MORE THAN I DO!
BUT ARE YOU LISTENING?
NAH.
CABLE ASKED ME TO FLUSH YOU OUT. SO I FLUSHED YOU OUT.
NOW, I JUST WANT TO FLUSH YOU.

THIS IS ABSURD! YOU IDIOT!
I WANT CABLE IN POWER--
--WHY ARE WE STILL HITTING EACH OTHER?
WELL?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO ANSWER YOU!
SO YOU JUST KEEP FIGHTING?
I WAS HOPING YOU'D FORGET YOU ASKED THE QUESTION!
ENOUGH, THEN. I'M DONE.
HAH! GOTCHA THEN!
I WIN.
OKAY.
WHAT DID I JUST WIN?

--IMPROVE THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CAPITAL AND OUTLYING SUBURBS FIRST.
THIS WILL FACILITATE THE RAPID CREATION OF NEW JOBS AND--
IT ALL SOUNDS SO...GOOD. SO... REASONABLE.

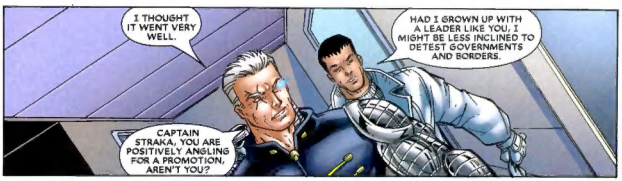
HAS [redacted] JUST TURNED HIMSELF INTO A POLITICIAN IN A NEON SUIT?
OR IS HE ACTUALLY SINCERE?

OR WORSE...HE IS SINCERE...BUT HE'S STILL...HE'S STILL CABLE...


HERE'S THE GUY WHO WAS IMPERSONATING PETROVIC. REGULAR RICH LITTLE WE GOT.

WOW, PETEY. YOU WERE ACTUALLY SURPRISED THERE.
I NEVER SEEN YOU CAUGHT OFF-GUARD, MOONIN' OVER NATE ON TV, HUH?
HE DOES LOOK PRETTY RUGGED THERE, DON'T HE?

WILSON--
WAIT.
YOU...YOU HAVEN'T LEFT NATE YET... HAVEN'T TURNED ON HIM.
DO YOU *REALLY* BELIEVE HE CAN DO THIS?
I MEAN... IT SOUNDS SO RIDICULOUS...DO YOU THINK HE CAN REALLY CHANGE THE WORLD?
NO JOKES? WHAT I THINK DON'T MUCH MATTER. NOT FOR *YOU*. IT SHOULDN'T. REAL QUESTION IS...
...WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?
FINANCING OF THESE PROJECTS WILL BE HANDLED INDEPENDENT OF THE RUMEKI TREASURY...
HE'S STILL CABLE.


I THOUGHT IT WENT VERY WELL.
HAD I GROWN UP WITH A LEADER LIKE YOU, I MIGHT BE LESS INCLINED TO DETEST GOVERNMENTS AND BORDERS.
CAPTAIN STRAKA, YOU ARE POSITIVELY ANGLING FOR A PROMOTION, AREN'T YOU?

--SO THEN HE JUST STOPPED FIGHTING. LOWERED HIS ARMS.
TOTALLY. HEY, WHAT'S THIS?
OH, MAN. YOU TOOK THE FREE SHOT, RIGHT?
HUMMUS GOULASH BAKLAVA.
SEE, THAT SOUNDS LIKE A DARE...

LEAVE SOME FOOD FOR THE MASSES.
OUR LITTLE PROBLEM WITH PETROVIC?
OKAY.
TAKEN CARE OF.
IT WAS CITIZEN V IN A HOLOGRAPHIC DISGUISE?
NOPE. IT WAS COLONEL MUSTARD WITH THE CANDLESTICK.
WHERE IS HE NOW?
SLEEPING WITH DOMINO.
WON'T ASK.

YOU LET HIM GO?
AND LEFT WITH A CLEARED CONSCIENCE.
HE WISHED YOU LUCK.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, DOM? HOW IS YOUR CONSCIENCE NOW...?

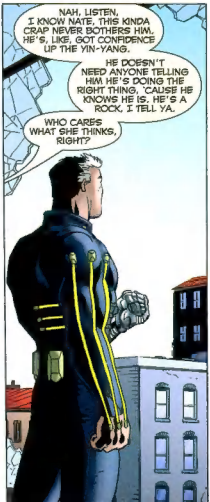
I HEARD A GUNSHOT!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, WADE. DOMINO WAS JUST PROVING A POINT.
NO...
AND WHAT POINT IS THAT? SHE CAN WASTE AMMO TRYING TO SHOOT YOU?

...THAT SHE CAN KILL ME ANY TIME SHE WANTS.
BINGO.
THE FIRST SHOT WAS ONLY TO GAUGE THE EXTENT OF MY NEW GRAVIMETRIC FIELD.
BINGO AGAIN.
DOMINO--PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU!
APPARENTLY, MICHAEL, YOUR CHOICE IS ALREADY MADE.
THEN WHY CAN'T YOU ACCEPT IT?
BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T TRUST ME. SHE CAN'T.
SHE THINKS I'M GOING TO RUIN THIS.
LIKE I HAVE EVERY-THING ELSE FOR AS LONG AS SHE'S KNOWN ME.

BUT... WHAT IF I DON'T?
WHAT IF YOU DO?
I HATE YOU, NATE...FOR MAKING ME WONDER IF... MAKING ME HOPE THAT YOU COULD DO THIS...

...BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO FAIL--AND BECAUSE I KNOW THAT, I'M EVEN MORE TERRIFIED...
...AT THE THOUGHT THAT YOU'LL SUCCEED...

AH, WOMEN! LAST THING YOU NEED IS HILARY CLINTON NAGGING IN YOUR EAR, MEDICARE THIS, BOLIVIA THAT, RIGHT?
I MEAN, SHE'S A PIECE OF WORK AND ALL, BUT THE WHITE SKIN IS KINDA CREEPY--SHE IS WHITE ALL OVER, RIGHT? AND ALSO--
UHM... WILSON...PERHAPS WE SHOULD...LEAVE HIM ALONE FOR NOW...


NAH, LISTEN, I KNOW NATE, THIS KINDA CRAP NEVER BOTHERS HIM, HE'S, LIKE, GOT CONFIDENCE UP THE YIN-YANG.
HE DOESN'T NEED ANYONE TELLING HIM HE'S DOING THE RIGHT THING, 'CAUSE HE KNOWS HE IS. HE'S A ROCK, I TELL YA.
WHO CARES WHAT SHE THINKS, RIGHT?

RIGHT...?
END
NEXT: CIVIL WAR TIE-IN!